

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 SAB-01 SSM-03 SAJ-01 IO-11

(ISO) W

----- 024575

R 151530Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 965

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3357

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG UR

SUBJECT: INITIAL REACTION TO ABROGATION OF SOVIET-EGYPTIAN TREATY

1. BASED ON LIMITED REACTIONS WE HAVE RECEIVED SINCE SADAT'S SPEECH LAST NIGHT RECOMMENDING TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY IMMEDIATE ABROGATION OF SOVIET-EGYPTIAN TREATY, OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT EGYPTIANS ALMOST UNANIMOUSLY WELCOME MOVE AS "LONG OVERDUE". ALTHOUGH SADAT HAD PREPARED PUBLIC FOR SUCH A MOVE LAST FALL, THERE WAS UNIVERSAL SURPRISE LAST NIGHT. EGYPTIANS, JOURNALISTS AND DIPLOMATS HAD BEGUN DISCOUNTING POSSIBILITY BECAUSE GOE HAD MODERATED ITS STATEMENTS DURING PAST FOUR MONTHS IN EFFORT TO APPEAR TO BE FOLLOWING BALANCED POLICY, AND MOST THOUGHT EGYPT WOULD WISH TO MAINTAIN RESEMBLANCE OF BALANCE BETWEEN SUPERPOWERS.

2. CURIOSITY CENTERS ON SOVIET REACTION. REUTERS CORRESPONDENT TOLD EMBOFF THAT AFTER CALLING AT SOVIET EMBASSY HE FELT IT CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD TAKE A COUPLE DAYS BEFORE THEY COULD OFFICIALLY REACT.

THEY WOULD NOT CONFIRM TO HIM GUMHURIYYA STORY THAT ALEX-
ANDRIAN PORT FACILITIES HAD ALSO BEEN TAKEN FROM SOVIETS.
SOVIET EMBOFF TOLD REUTERS CORRESPONDENT THAT SOVIET EMBASSY
LEARNED OF SADAT INTENTION TO ASK FOR ABROGATION OF TREATY DURING
THE COURSE OF THE SPEECH.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY TERMINATION, POLICIES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, BALANCE OF POWER
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO03357
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760098-0169
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760361/aaaacbwo.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INITIAL REACTION TO ABROGATION OF SOVIET-EGYPTIAN TREATY
TAGS: PFOR, EG, UR, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006